



## PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS FOR THE SOLDIERS OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE MILITARY RESERVE

By Colonel Richard Grossman  
Director – Operations, Plans and Training  
*California State Military Reserve*

On 11 September 2003 the school house doors at Camp San Luis Obispo opened for the continuing education of the soldiers of the *California State Military Reserve* (CA SMR). The school house is part of the CA SMR professional military education school system.

From 11 September through 14 September twenty-nine (29) CA SMR soldiers participated in the Warrant Officer's Basic Course and forty-one (41) CA SMR soldiers participated in the Basic Non-Commissioned Officer's Course. These courses are part of the professional education being offered to soldiers of the CA SMR. As with the National Guard, CA SMR soldiers must take and complete professional military courses to qualify for promotions and appointments.

The School House currently presents professional military courses geared for the soldiers of the CA SMR. Courses given at the School House are the Basic Orientation Course (BOC), the Basic Non-Commissioned Officer's Course (BNCOC), the Advanced Non-Commissioned Officer's Course (ANCOC), the Warrant Officer's Basic Course (WOBC), and the Joint Operations Center Certification Course (JOCCC). The BOC, BNCOC, ANCOC, and WOBC are all presented at Camp San Luis Obispo. The JOCCC is presented at the Joint Operations Center at State HQ.

The staff consists of CA SMR Senior NCOs, Warrant Officers and Officers who have been chosen from all the units of the CA SMR. They are chosen based on their military service, professional development, ability to teach and upon the recommendation of their

commanders and the school house staff. While they are all assigned to different units they come together as a teaching team two to three times each year to present professional military courses to the soldiers of the CA SMR.



The Course Management Plan/Program of Instruction (CMP/POI) for the courses are all based on the Total Army Training System with adjustments for the combat arms portions and the time available for the courses. Soldiers of the CA SMR are receiving essentially the same training as their counterparts in the National Guard.

The programs currently available were first given in May 2001. Since that time 102 soldiers have completed BOC; 80 have completed BNCOC; 21 have completed ANCOC; 53 have completed WOBC, and 24 have completed JOCCC.

Currently under development are the Senior NCO course and the Officer Candidate School.

In addition to the courses given by the CA SMR training team all CA SMR soldiers are required to take the prescribed FEMA courses and maintain certification in CPR and First Aid. Officers are required to complete basic and advanced courses for their branch. These are taken through the Army Institute for Professional Development (AIPD).

Senior Officers are required to take the Command and Staff Course through the Marine Corps Institute or the Command and General Staff Course through

# PASS IN REVIEW

Publisher

*MG John Bianchi*

Senior Editor

*COL Martin Ledwitz*

Production Editor & Photographer

*WO1 Jon-Nolan Paresa*

Text Editor

*CAPT Richard Lalor*

Contributors

*COL Martin Ledwitz*

*COL Thomas Swidler*

*COL Richard Grossman*

*MAJ Stanley Zezotarski*

*WOC George Williams*



Soldiers wishing to contribute an article to the Pass In Review must be submitted to COL Ledwitz via  
E-mail: [martin.ledwitz@sce.com](mailto:martin.ledwitz@sce.com)



Army sources.

The CA SMR also provides courses for its soldiers based on special mission requirements. Ninety-five (95) CA SMR soldiers have attended the National Guard Operational Ready Family Training or the CA SMR Family Readiness Training. The CA SMR has



also trained fifteen (15) Family Readiness Inspectors. Thirty-seven (37) CA SMR soldiers have received SRP training.

The CA SMR also provides instructors for the Physical Security Inspection program for both CA SMR and CA ARNG personnel. These classes are taught by an instructor team composed on CA SMR and CA ARNG personnel.

Questions about the CA SMR school system should be directed to Colonel Richard Grossman, CA SMR Director of Operations, Plans and Training or Sergeant Major Allen Baraldi, CA SMR Chief of Schools.



*Photographs for this article taken by  
WO1 Jon-Nolan Paresa*



## GOVERNOR GRAY DAVIS SIGNS NEW STATE MILITARY RESERVE BENEFIT INTO LAW

*By Maj. Stan Zezotarski*

**S**acramento, CA (September 11, 2003) Gov. Gray Davis signed Assembly Bill 547, a bill that establishes a student loan repayment program for members of the State Military Forces, into law on September 11, 2003 on the anniversary of the 9-11 terrorists' attacks.

Under the new law, California establishes a student loan repayment program that mirrors the Assumption Program of Loans for Education currently available to teachers. California National Guard soldiers and airmen, State Military Reserve, and Naval Militia who maintain satisfactory service are eligible for repayment of federal student loans as follows: After one year: \$2,000; after each additional year: \$3,000, up to a total repayment amount of \$11,000.

The signing culminates the tiring efforts of California National Guard's rank and file spearheaded by the National Guard Association of California (NGAC). Originally introduced as Assembly Bill 307—legislation proposing that California National Guardsmen qualify for the Cal Grant Award Program—the bill never made it out of committee the first time. Through the combined efforts of the NGAC and mid-grade officers with legislative experience, a new bill was drafted and introduced into the California Senate Appropriations committee. The bill died.

Although the NGAC president was tireless in his efforts to gain state benefits for National Guard soldiers, it was the behind the scenes efforts that helped the organization achieve its goals and encouraged the NGAC to continue its fight despite both times that benefit appeared dead. The effort to pursue such legislation originated with a 1998 survey of the 40th Infantry Division—the California National Guard's largest command at the time with 14,000 soldiers—that revealed that the number one state benefit that soldiers wanted was free tuition and fees for its soldiers and airmen. The mid-grade officers that

conducted that survey are again working with the state command and the NGAC to conduct a second survey in January 2004 in which they will draw a sample for the entire 22,000 person force.

"I suspect that with the increased deployments, family, and civilian employer issues, that the results will show that our rank will want their NGAC to develop a state and federal legislative plan that pursues relief in those areas," said California National Guard NGAC member Maj. Mike Wells. "It's all about taking care of troops—a commitment to serve."

### CA SMR PERSONNEL CONTRIBUTE \$2.6 MILLION IN VOLUNTEER TIME TO CALIFORNIA

*By COL Thomas Swidler*

**S**ACRAMENTO - The California State Military Reserve (CA SMR) contributed more than 10,000 person-days of volunteer service in 2002, saving California in excess of \$2,600,000. Significant additional service was performed by the CA SMR on State Active Duty status.

The CA SMR is comprised of the 40th Infantry Division (M) Support Brigade (Los Alamitos), with its subordinate commands, the 40th Aviation Support Battalion (Fresno) and the 2nd Brigade Support Battalion (San Diego); the Installation Support Group (Los Alamitos); the 100th Troop Support Brigade (Fairfield) with its subordinate command, the 115 TC Support Battalion (Roseville); the OTAG Support Group (Sacramento); the California Center for Military History (Sacramento) and the new Air Wing (Moffett Field).

The command changed leadership in Mid-2002 with MG John E. Bianchi replacing BG Robert A. Cervantes at

the expiration of his two-year command tenure. The principal mission of the CA SMR in 2002 was to support the California National Guard (CA ARNG) in Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP) and other assignments related to assisting the CA ARNG in preparing for possible mobilization and deployment.



This support peaked in the final months of 2002 when CA SMR personnel performed more service days on State Active Duty status than anytime in its modern history.

SRP support includes personnel administration, legal and chaplain support, medical and dental testing and processing, family support, combat stress testing and counseling and Small Arms Readiness Training Section (SARTS) --- SARTS specialists assist in training and qualifying CA ARNG soldiers in various weapons systems. The SARTS team held a special course to train National Guard Sniper Teams.

In October of 2002, the CA-SMR was directed to increase its Family Readiness capabilities. Within three months the number of trained SMR family support personnel grew from 5 to 96 and was then tasked with reviewing CA ARNG units' Family Readiness Programs throughout the State.

The California Center for Military History was recognized by the National Guard Bureau for its outstanding historical display at the 124th National Guard Association of the United States annual conference, which was held in California in 2002. Other CA SMR units contributed to the conference in local public affairs programs and with significant

technical and administrative support.

Throughout 2002, the California State Military Reserve personnel:

- Trained Battle Commanders at Camp San Luis Obispo by its Simulation Detachment. Provided professional services by JAGs, Chaplains, Medical and Dental professionals and administrative staff.
- Performed casualty notification and military honors.
- Conducted Physical Security reviews of CA ARNG Armories and trained CA ARNG Soldiers in Physical Security.
- Represented the principle communications assets for the State Signal Officer. Supported numerous Drug Demand Reduction missions including DARE and DEFY.

*The Pass In Review is published under the provisions of AR 360-1 for the members of the California State Military Reserve. Views and/or opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the CA SMR, the Governor of the State of California, and the Department of Defense.*

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## SERGEANT SUZY OUGHTON RECOGNIZED FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AT BNOC

*Story by WOC George Williams, Photograph by WO1 Jon-Nolan Paresa  
HQ CASMR/G-5*

**SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA.** (September 14, 2003) The CASMR held its Basic Non-Commissioned Officer Course (BNOC) and Warrant Officer Candidate Basic Course at Camp San Luis Obispo on 11-14 September, 2003. Over 70 students attended from all CASMR units.

***For SGT Oughton the CASMR is her way to contribute.***

SGT Suzy Oughton of the 40<sup>th</sup> Avn Spt Bn, in Fresno, received recognition for academic achievement in the BNOC. Although she maintains a busy civilian life as a Physical Education & Nutrition Instructor for the Madera Unified School District, she still finds time to volunteer. SGT Oughton works in the S-3 Personnel section, while also performing duties in

the Color Guard.

If it were not for the suggestion of a National Guard recruiter in Visalia, the CASMR would not have been able to gain such a quality individual. Due to the events of 9-11, SGT Oughton wanted to be part of the effort of keeping our country safe. She inquired about joining the National Guard. Sadly for her, she did not meet the age requirements. The Guard recruiter suggested joining the California State Military Reserve, and the rest is history. *"I love being a member of the SMR - it is a great organization"* says SGT Oughton. The CASMR has presented her an opportunity to give back to her country, and has gained a quality NCO in return.





# COL DONALD P. BYINGTON AND LTC MARILYN BYINGTON JOIN THE CASMR AS A TEAM

Story by COL Martin Ledwitz

**SACRAMENTO, CA (October 3, 2003)** One major effort of the CASMR in support of the California Army National Guard is in the medical field. Medical personnel are always needed, and are very valuable in performing the CASMR mission. COL Arlen Gage (CASMR, Medical) had great success recently by recruiting a husband and wife medical team.

The husband is COL Donald Byington, a retired Navy Captain. COL Byington grew up on an Iowa farm and joined the Army Reserve at the age of 19. He later gained a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Iowa State University, a Ph.D. in Virology from Purdue, and an MD from Case Western Reserve University Medical School. His medical career has included working in the US Public Health Service and in Emergency Medicine at a Kaiser Permanente facility. He joined the Navy Reserve and completed 20 years, mainly in support of the 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Division, including as Regimental Surgeon during Desert Storm.

COL Byington currently is a board certified Emergency Physician with Kaiser Permanente in San Francisco. COL Byington says, "I would like to continue to offer my services to the military through the State Military Reserve."

The wife of the team is LTC Marilyn Byington, a retired Army National Guard Nurse LTC. LTC Byington was raised in Honolulu, Hawaii and graduated with a BSN from the University of Hawaii. In 1971, she entered the Army Nurse Corps and served in Louisiana and Hawaii. LTC Byington transferred to the USPHS and met her husband. She worked in a VA hospital in San Francisco and joined the Army Reserve for four years. She then transferred to the Army National Guard's 146<sup>th</sup> CSH, 175<sup>th</sup> Medical Brigade and served over time

as critical care nurse, educator, Head Nurse and Chief Nurse. LTC Byington retired as Officer in Charge of PE Team A of Medical Detachment 8 in Sacramento.

Currently LTC Byington is a Clinical Education Specialist in Nursing Education for California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco. She says, "I have first hand knowledge of the SMR as volunteers who worked tirelessly with Medical Detachment 8 in assisting us in accomplishing our mission. Their example helped me in my decision to join the SMR after 30 years in the military to better serve my country."



*Retired Navy Captain (CASMR COL) Donald Byington and Retired Army NG LTC (CASMR LTC) Marilyn Byington being congratulated by MG John Bianchi, (Commander, CASMR) on being sworn-in to the California State Military Reserve on 3 October 2003.*

The CASMR needs more experienced medical personnel like the Byington's to provide support to the National Guard for records checks, physicals, and mobilization efforts.

*Photograph taken by SFC Robert Pack  
California, Army National Guard*

# CASMR AND EDISON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATE TO SUPPORT US TROOPS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Story by COL Martin Ledwitz

During the period April 14, 2003 to July 31, 2003 the employees of Edison wanted to show their support for the US troops deploying overseas and their families. The company had two programs, one was a corporate program called the "Military Family Donation Fund." and the other was centered on the Regulatory Policy and Affairs (RP&A) Department focused on the motto "Our Troops Are Our Shining Stars." The corporate program was led by Vivian Perez, of the Community Involvement Department. The RP&A program was led by Christy Feindel and Gail Schaefer.

distributed to families at March Joint Air Reserve Base and the Pendleton Marine Base."

Gail Schaefer in RP&A had a personal reason for helping the troops. Her son Christopher, is a Specialist with the Third Infantry Division, 3<sup>rd</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Air Cavalry and he was stationed in Kuwait and Iraq. She was shipping needed items to her son and his friends. They expressed their appreciation for her efforts. Her work was noted by Christy Feindel, the Director of RP&A's Employee Contribution Campaign.

Colonel Martin Ledwitz and WOC George Williams of the G-5 Section of HQ CASMR both work for Southern California Edison, a subsidiary of Edison International.

Ledwitz is the Director of Civil Affairs for the CASMR and Williams is assigned to his G-5 Section. At Edison, Ledwitz is Manager of the Air Quality Compliance Section of RP&A, and Williams is an Air Quality Technical Specialist in that Section. Both men are also US Air Force Retirees. Ledwitz and Williams provided military advice and coordination with military units, including contact with the HQ of the California National Guard for the Edison programs.

Vivian Perez was asked about the corporate "Military Family Donation Fund." "It was a corporate fundraiser," she said, "used to support the families of deployed troops of all services. It was done through the Edison International Foundation in cooperation with the Salvation Army. Employees donated money, and Edison International matched the employee donations. A total of \$17,045 was collected and



WOC Williams, Gail Schaefer, Cheryl Courtright and MAJ Shipe

Christy says, "Seeing Gail's effort in support of her son's unit, I saw an opportunity to help the soldiers and provide a vehicle for other Edison employees to help support our armed services personnel deployed in the Middle East." "The Department Committee

created a list of supplies needed by the troops and a collection drive was held," said Gail. The drive focused on the Third Infantry Division in Iraq, and on other service people and their families who are Edison employees or related to Edison employees. "Edison employees," Christy continued, "from across the Edison service territory donated over 7,700 items. In addition, over \$2,000 was collected through the sale of mugs with the motto "Our Troops are Our Shining Stars" and Star Pins to be worn by contributors." This money was used to pay for shipment of the collected items.

COL Ledwitz donated Star pins to Senior Military Officers in Sacramento, and WOC Williams took a box of campaign cups and Star pins to the Headquarters in Sacramento for sale there. MSG Richard Castillo





*Colonel Martin Ledwitz, California State Military Reserve (and SCE RP&A) thanking Vivian Perez of SCE Community Involvement for the support of Edison International to the families of deployed US troops.*

continue working together in the future to provide troop support activities.



*Gail Schaefer of SCE, with Cheryl Courtright, 40<sup>th</sup> ID(M) Family Readiness Coordinator, and Captain Richard Lalor, 40ID(M) SPT BDE unloading the Edison packages.*

of the CASMR sold the items, and Headquarters personnel of both the CASMR and National Guard supported the drive.

The RP&A drive resulted in individual packages being made for 36 service people in the Army, Navy, and Marines whose addresses had been received from Edison employees, and were sent overseas in cooperation with the USO. Large packages were also sent to the Third Infantry Division with requested supplies.

On September 6, 2003, George Williams and Gail Schaefer delivered the remaining boxes of toiletry



*Warrant Officer Candidate George Williams, CASMR and SCE, with Christy Feindel and Gail Schaefer of SCE with the symbols of "Our Troops Are Our Shining Stars."*

items from the RP&A program to the Headquarters of the 40<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Mechanized) of the California Army National Guard at Los Alamitos finalizing the RP&A program. They

met with Major Ines Shipe, the Family Support Officer of the 40<sup>th</sup>ID(M) Support Brigade of the CASMR, Captain

Photographs taken by COL Martin Ledwitz and WOC George Williams



Richard Lalor, a Press Officer of that CASMR Brigade, and Cheryl Courtright, the Family Readiness Coordinator for the 40ID(M). Gail Schaefer and Cheryl Courtright hope to